

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /083 W

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R 161735Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7930

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

"AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 999

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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EMBASSIES, CONSULATES AND US MISSION FOR LABOR OFFICERS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ARGENTINA

1. AT LEAST FOUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES HAVE VISITED BUENOS AIRES IN THE PAST MONTH. THERE FOLLOWS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF SALIENT FEATURES OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, TO THE EXTENT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE:

A) WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR. ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASES, WCL SECRETARY GENERAL JAN KULAKOWSKI (OR KOWOLSKI?) WAS IN B.A. DURING FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING MEETING OF WCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN CARACAS. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH VARIOUS LOCAL UNION LEADERS (NOT NAMED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS),

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KULAKOWSKI PAID SEPARATE CALLS ON LABOR MINISTER LIENDO

AND CGT INTERVENTOR (AIR FORCE COMODORO) JULIO CESAR PROCILE DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED WCL'S HOPE FOR A RAPID NORMALIZATION OF TRADE UNION SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND REQUESTED THE RELEASE OF JAILED LABOR LEADERS, OR AT LEAST THE PUBLICATION OF CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND THE SUBMISSION OF THESE CASES TO NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCESSES. KULAKOWSKI WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO VISIT IMPRISONED LEADERS AT THE CASEROS AND VILLA DEVOTO JAILS, WHICH HE DID NO NOV. 5. A RECEPTION HOSTED BY UNNAMED LOCAL LEADERS WAS HELD FOR KULAKOWSKI AND BRUNO HECK, DESCRIBED AS A MEMBER OF THE WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENT, A FORMER MINISTER OF FAMILY AND YOUTH AND CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION.

B) INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION. IMF REPRESENTATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA, FERNANDO MELGOSA ALSO PAID CALL ON LABOR MINISTER LIENDO DURING HIS VISIT TO B.A., ALSO DURINGV FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER. THIS WAS MELGOSA'S THIRD VISIT TO ARGENTINA SINCE THE MARCH GOLPE. IN CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, MELGOSA APPEARED TO SUGGEST THAT HIS TALK WITH LIENDO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GOA DECISION TO RELEASE EX-MEMBER METALWORKER (UOM) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALBERTO COMPOS FROM JAIL. HOWEVER, CAMPOS' IMPENDING FREEDOM, ALONG WITH THAT OF EX-PLASTICS WORKER LEADER ALBERTO TRIACCA, HAS BEEN PREDICTED IN PRESS FOR WEEKS. MELGOSA CLARIFIED (SEE BA 6810) THAT THE PLANNED OPENING OF IMF OFFICE IN BUENOS AIRES--EVIDENTLY IT IS NOT FUNCTIONING YET--IS MERELY INTENDED TO GIVE SUPPORT TO, AND TO JUSTIFY ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA OF, EX-SMATA SECRETARY GENERAL JOSE RODRIGUEZ. MELGOSA SAID RODRIGUEZ WILL NOT HAVE JURISDICTION OVER IMF ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF ARGENTINA.

C) IRO-FIET. FIET ACTIVIST EDIL ARTEGOITIA ARRIVED IN B.A. A WEEK AGO FOLLOWING UP IRO-FIET SECRETARY GENERAL ELMER FOSTER'S VISIT OF OCTOBER 24-28, WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECT BACK DUES OWED BY ARGENTINE AFFILIATES. IN WHAT ARTEGOITIA DESCRIBED AS A 3-HOUR MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTER LIENDO, LATTER REPORTEDLY PROMISED THAT CHARGES AGAINST EX-MEMBER OF BANKWORKER (ASOCIACION BANCARIA) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CARLOS COLAZO WOULD BE DROPPED AND THAT COLAZO WOULD BE RELEASED THIS WEEK. LIENDO ALSO SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT FELLOW EX-BOARD MEMBER ANUBIS REVELLA WAS RELEASED

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ON BAIL PENDING TRIAL (SEE BA 7200). LIENDO ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE CASES BEING PREPARED AGAINST TRADE UNION LEADERS AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF PERONIST REGIME FOR CORRUPTION, ETC. WILL BE READY BY END OF FEBRUARY 1977, AT WHICH TIME THE CHARGES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. DURING DISCUSSION CONCERNING BASIC GUIDELINES FOR A NEW DRAFT LAW ON TRADE UNIONS (LEY DE ASOCIACIONES PROFESIONALES), LIENDO RECOGNIZED THERE WAS SOME OPPOSITION WITHIN MILITARY AND GOVT TO HIS

PLAN FOR NORMALIZATION OF UNION ACTIVITIES, BUT APPEARED  
CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD BE OVERCOME. THE TIMETABLE WHICH  
LIENDO GAVE TO ARTEGOITIA APPEARS TO ACCORD IN A GENERAL WAY  
WITH THAT HE GAVE AMBASSADOR IN EARLY OCT. (SEE BA 6576), AND  
PRESENTS A SCENARIO WHICH IS SOMEWHAT MORE DRAWN  
OUT THAN ONE REPORTED IN BA 7214. ACCORDING TO ARTEGOITIA,  
LIENDO SAID NEW LAW WOULD BE PROMULGATED BY MID-YEAR 1977  
AND REORGANIZATION PROCESS (ELECTIONS, ETC.) WOULD TAKE  
PLACE AROUND END OF 1977. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE SOME SELECT  
UNIONS WHICH WILL BE ALLOWED TO REORGANIZE BEFORE ON GRADUAL,  
EXPERIMENTAL BASIS. LIENDO ASKED FOR ARTEGOITIA'S OPINION OF  
NEW GUIDELINES. LATTER LIMITED HIMSELF TO NOTING THAT SOME OF  
THE PROPOSED INNOVATIONS WERE "CONTROVERSIAL" AND TO SUGGESTING  
THAT THE MINISTER CONSULT THE UNIONS, INCLUDING THE INTERVENED  
UNIONS. MINISTER EVIDENTLY HAD A CHUCKLE OVER LATTER SUGGESTION.  
ARTEGOITIA ALSO ELICITED STATEMENTS FROM LIENDO THAT COMMERCIAL  
WORKERS FEDERATION WOULD NOT BE INTERVENED. (SECRETARY GENERAL  
FLORENCIO CARRANZA EVIDENTLY CONCERNED OVER THIS POSSIBILITY.  
POSSIBLE BASES FOR SUCH AN ACTION ALLEGEDLY INCLUDE A RATHER  
EXTRAVAGANT PURCHASE OF AN AUTOMOBILE FLEET FOR THE ENTIRE  
UNION BOARD, SUSPICIONS CONCERNING IRREGULARITIES IN THE  
COMMERCIAL WORKERS' BANK AND A CURRENT LAWSUIT AGAINST THE  
BUENOS AIRES LOCAL FOR OVERDUE DEBTS TO A BUILDING CONTRACTOR.)  
CHAPLIN

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## Message Attributes

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